RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)

PROJECT FACT SHEET

ORIGINAL DATE: October 1998 TAG REVIEW DATE: 22 September 1999

1. SITE NAME: Laguna Maneuver Area, Site Nos. 5, 6 and 7

SITE NUMBER: J09AZ043900

LOCATION:

City:

County: Yuma, La Paz and Maricopa

Arizona State:

PROJECT NUMBERS: J09AZ043905, J09AZ043906, and J09AZ043907

CATEGORY: ΟE

INPR RAC: J09AZ043905 (RAC 1)

J09AZ043906 (RAC 1) J09AZ043907 (RAC 1)

ASR RAC: J09AZ043905 (RAC 2)

> J09AZ043906 (RAC 2) J09AZ043907 (RAC 5)

J09AZ043905 (RAC 2) TAG RAC:

> J09AZ043906 (RAC 2) J09AZ043907 (RAC 5)

2. POCs:

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRICT: GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION: Name: Debra Castens Name: Anthony L. Mei

Office: CESPL-PM Office: CESPD-PM-R Phone: (213) 452-3990 Phone: (415) 977-8247

HEADQUARTERS: ASR/INPR TEAM:

Name: Sara Goodwin Name: Richard L. Pike

Office: CEMP-RF Office: CEHNC-OE-DC Phone: (202) 761-5223 Phone: (256) 895-1559

ASR SUPPORT DISTRICT:

Name: Michael D. Patterson

ASR TECHNICAL REVIEWER:

Name: Richard A. Hale

Office: SIOAC-ESL Office: SIOAC-ESL

Office: SIOAC-ESL Phone: (918) 420-8763 Phone: (918) 420-8825

3. SITE DESCRIPTION:

Laguna Maneuver Area, Site Nos. 5, 6, and 7 were spread throughout La Paz, Maricopa, and Yuma counties in the southwestern portion of Arizona,. The sites are located in the general vicinity of Yuma, Ehrenberg, and Quartzsite, AZ. The Laguna Maneuver Area included several million acres of the Sonoran Desert, consisting of large valleys between numerous mountain ranges. A large portion of the former area is today the Yuma Proving Grounds and the KOFA Wildlife Refuge. These two areas are not included in the subject project sites.

b. Site Nos. 5, 6, and 7 consisted of approximately 1,367,040 acres, or 2,136 square miles. The majority of project land is public, controlled by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). A small portion is state land, and a smaller portion is privately owned.

4. SITE HISTORY:

- a. On 1 March 1942, General George Patton, Commander of the I Armored Corps was designated as the Commanding General, Desert Training Center, and was ordered to find a site in southeastern California and western Arizona where the terrain and climate were similar to that of the Libyan Desert. On 10 March 1942, General Patton notified the Commanding General that large areas of California and Arizona were suitable for the type of training desired, and on 29 June 1942, the Department of Interior granted the War Department use of approximately 4,730,000 acres of land in western Arizona. The Laguna Maneuver Area was one part (part "B") of three sections of land that made up the much larger Desert Training Center. On 20 October 1943, the Desert Training Center became the California-Arizona Maneuver Area or CAMA.
- b. The CAMA consisted of 11 divisional camps and stretched from Indio, California eastward to Prescott, Arizona, and from Yuma, Arizona northward to Searchlight, Nevada. Divisional Camps located within Arizona were Camp Horn, Camp Hyder, Camp Bouse, and Camp Laguna. While none of these camps are within the project areas of sites 5, 6, or 7, land immediately adjacent to Camps Horn and Hyder including their training ranges are part of the project sites.
- c. On 22 January 1944, notice was given that the CAMA would cease to exist as a training theater of operations not later than 1 May 1944, and in accordance with the correspondence of 22 January 1944, leases were terminated and land returned to the previous owners.
- d. Shortly after the shutdown of the CAMA, the 10th Italian Quartermaster Service Company did the deduding of area B. Dedudding operations ran from 13 June through 15 September 1944, and demolition of the duds was done by the 65th Ordnance Bomb Disposal Squad, Camp Haan, California between 15 July and 23 August 1944. 242 items were destroyed in Area B with 22 high explosive shells being found within deduding map sections 19 and 23 which are indicated as Area B in project sites J09AZ43906.

- e. In 1951 it was recognized that there were probably still duds located within the CAMA. Since the majority of land was deemed to be not suitable for agricultural purposes, it was recommended that no further searches for duds be done. Warning signs were erected at strategic points throughout the area to warn people of OE (ordnance and explosives) dangers.
- f. A subsequent reassessment called for re-inspection of known impact areas, and clearance of one-half mile on each side of all roads which were accessible to commercial type vehicles. In May 1954, all dedudding was completed in accordance with guidelines set in the 1951 correspondence.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Site No. J09AZ043905

Area A: Size, sq. miles: 1544.5 (988,480 acres)

Former Usage: Maneuver Area

Present Usage: Desert Land/Town Sites

Probable End Usage: Same as Above

Ordnance Presence No Ordnance Presence

Area B: Size, sq. miles: 1.5 (960 acres)

Former Usage: Impact Area
Present Usage: Desert Land
Probable End Usage: Same as Above
Ordnance Presence Confirmed

Type: 37mm, 105mm, and 155mm HE

Area C: Size, sq. miles: 5 (3,200 acres)

Former Usage: Impact Area
Present Usage: Desert Land
Probable End Usage: Same as Above
Ordnance Presence Confirmed

Type: 81mm and 155mm HE

Site No. J09AZ043906

Area A: Size, sq. miles: 4.7 (3,008 acres)

Former Usage: Impact Area
Present Usage: Desert Land
Probable End Usage: Same as Above

Ordnance Presence No Ordnance Presence

Area B: Size, sq. miles: 116.8 (74,752 acres)

Former Usage: Camp Horn Training Ranges

Present Usage: Desert Land/Farming

Probable End Usage: Same as Above Ordnance Presence Confirmed

Type: Frag grenades, Practice Landmines, and 155mm HE

Area C: Size, sq. miles: 117.0 (74,880 acres)

Former Usage: Impact Area Present Usage: Desert Land Probable End Usage: Same as Above Ordnance Presence Confirmed Type: 90mm HE

Area D: Size, sq. miles: 41.5 (26,560 acres)

Former Usage: Maneuver Area Present Usage: Ordnance Presence Roads/Desert Land No Ordnance Presence

Site No. J09AZ043907

Area A: Size, sq. miles: 35.0 (22,400 acres)

> Former Usage: Maneuver Area

Roads/Desert Land Present Usage:

Probable End Usage: Same as Above

Ordnance Presence No Ordnance Presence

Area B: Size, sq. miles: 161.0 (103,040 acres)

Former Usage: Maneuver Area Present Usage: Roads/Desert Land

Probable End Usage: Same as Above

Ordnance Presence No Ordnance Presence

Area C: Size, sq. miles: 50 (32,000 acres) Former Usage: Maneuver Area

Present Usage: Roads/Desert Land
Probable End Usage: Same as Above
Ordnance Presence No Ordnance Presence

Area D:

Size, sq. miles: 59 (37,760 acres)
Former Usage: Maneuver Area Present Usage: Roads/Desert Land

Probable End Usage: Same as Above

Ordnance Presence No Ordnance Presence

6. CURRENT STATUS:

The Archives Search Report for the Laguna Maneuver Area Site Nos. 5, 6, and 7 was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District/Defense Ammunition Center, in October 1998.

7. STRATEGY:

Site No. J09AZ43905

Area A: NDAI Area B: EE/CA Area C: EE/CA

Site No. J09AZ43906

Area A: NDAI Area B: EE/CA Area C: EE/CA Area D: NDAI

Site No. J09AZ43907

Area A: NDAI
Area B: NDAI
Area C: NDAI
Area D: NDAI

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

- a. The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group met and discussed this ASR on 22 September 1999. Ordnance presence and the resulting strategy determined for these sites can be found in paragraphs 5 and 7 of this Fact Sheet.
- b. The entire area, including all three project sites, was for all intensive purposes a free fire zone, with no records remaining of firing or impact areas. The terrain is such that any remaining OE would be very easily overlooked, even in a concentrated search. Most parts of the project areas have never been surveyed for the presence of historical/cultural sites. Any intrusive actions should be done in conjunction with the SHPO.
- c. There are known Federally-and State-listed species occurring in the site area. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.
- d. Recommend warning signs be re-erected in appropriate areas, to warn the general public of possible hazards in the area.
- 9. SCHEDULED SUMMARY: EE/CA*
- * Sites J09AZ043905 and J09AZ043906

NDAI**

- ** Site J09AZ043907
- 10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only

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